PATENT

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):

Nils Gura, et al.

Title:

LEAST CHOICE FIRST ARBITER

Application No.: 09/540,729

Filed:

March 31, 2000

Examiner:

Lee, Timothy L.

Group Art Unit:

2697

Atty. Docket No.: 004-4282

Confirmation No.:

1942

September 22, 2003

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

OCT 0 2 2003

Technology Center 2600

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

This paper is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated June 20, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire September 22, 2003 (as September 20 is a Saturday, the time for response is extended to Monday, September 22, 2003). In light of the Amendments and/or Remarks herein, further examination is requested.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows: